The Word became flesh and lived among us

JOHN 1:14

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti, MI
January 4, 2026 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Worship Key
P: Pastor
A: Assisting Ministers
C: Congregation

THE GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

C: we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair.
We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear.
We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.

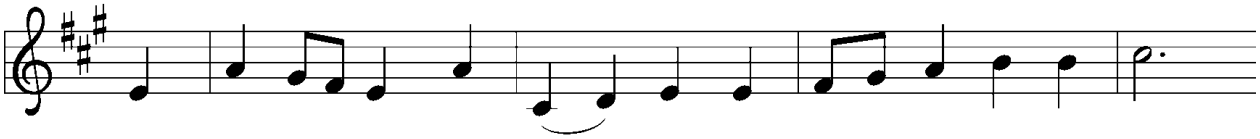
Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.
Amen.

P: God's grace upon grace flows over you.
✠ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.
Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

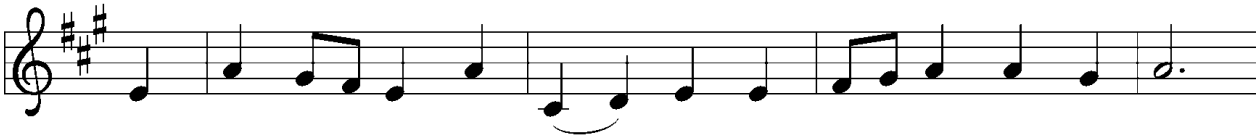
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 521

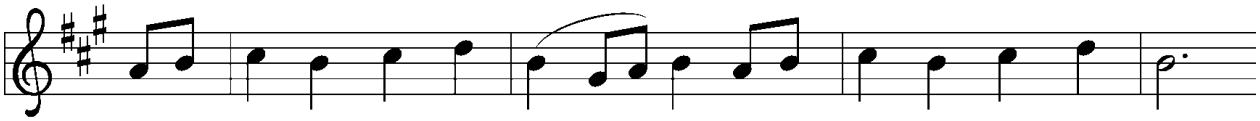
"O Day of Rest and Gladness"



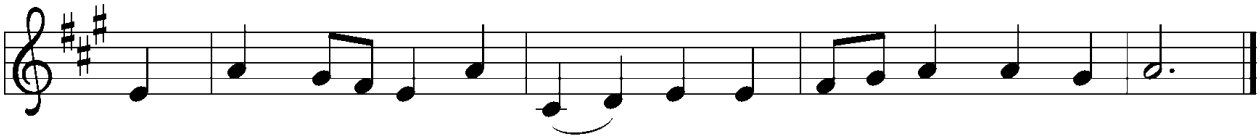
1 O day of rest and glad - ness, O day of joy and light,
2 On you, at earth's cre - a - tion, the light first had its birth;
3 To - day on wea - ry na - tions the heav'n-ly man-na falls;
4 New grac-es ev - er gain - ing from this our day of rest,



O balm for care and sad - ness, most beau - ti - ful, most bright:
on you, for our sal - va - tion, Christ rose from depths of earth;
to ho - ly con - vo - ca - tions the sil - ver trum-pet calls,
we reach the rest re - main - ing to spir - its of the blest.



on you the high and low - ly, through a - ges joined in tune,
on you, our Lord vic - to - rious the Spir - it sent from heav'n;
where gos-pel light is glow - ing with pure and ra - diant beams
We sing to you our prais - es, O Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son;



sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly," to the great God tri - une.
and thus on you, most glo - rious, a three-fold light was giv'n.
and liv - ing wa - ter flow - ing with soul - re - fresh-ing streams.
the church its voice up - rais - es to you, blest Three in One.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.
Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

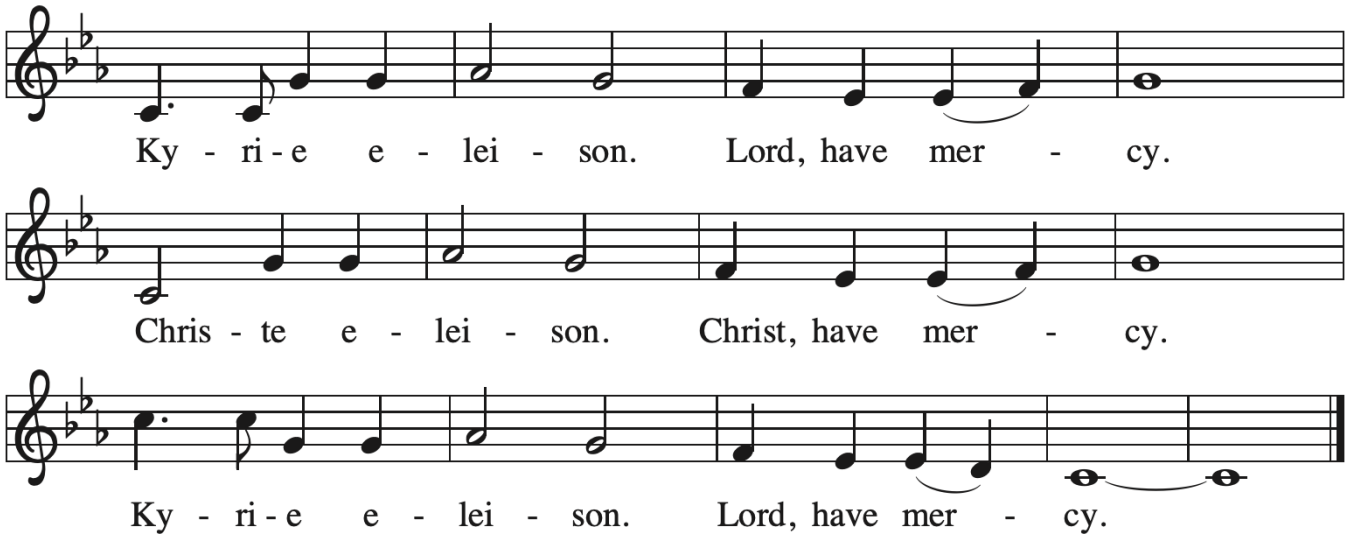
GREETING

P: Unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be on his shoulder; and his name shall be called wonderful, mighty counsellor, the Prince of peace. O sing unto the Lord a new son; for he has done marvelous things.

God the father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you now and forever.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

C: Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING – Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

A: A reading from Jeremiah.

7 Thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel."
8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,

among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.
[9] With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.
[10] Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock."
[11] For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
[12] They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again.
[13] Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.
[14] I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

A: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM – Psalm 147:12-20

[12] Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,
[13] **who has strengthened the bars of your gates**
and has blessed your children within you.
[14] God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
[15] **God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.**

16 God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.
17 **God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?**
18 The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.
19 **God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.**
20 The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING – Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made know as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

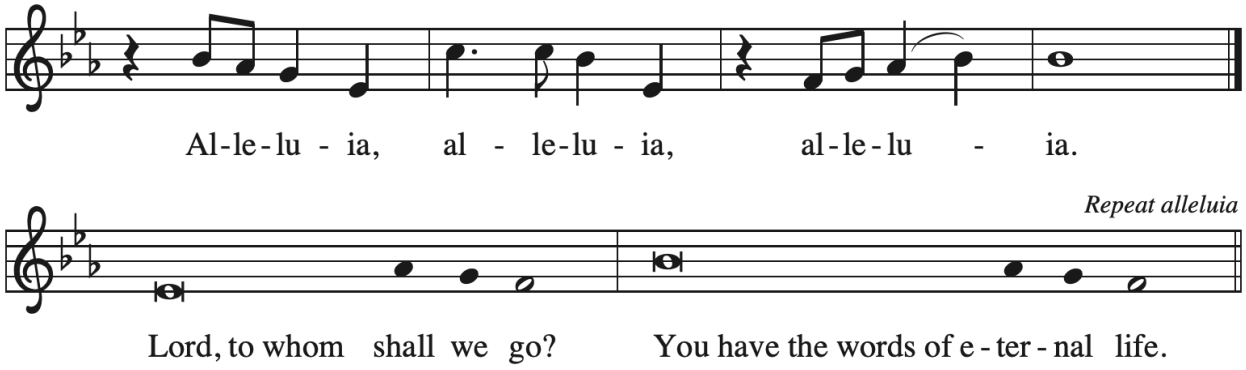
A: A reading from Ephesians.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in
Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in
Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in
love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according
to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely
bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood,
the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he
lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery
of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for
the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on
earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined
according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his
counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might
live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of
truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the
seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward
redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

A: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



GOSPEL – John 1: 1-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

P: The Gospel according to John.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[1] In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [2] He was in the beginning with God. [3] All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being [4] in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. [5] The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

[6] There was a man sent from God whose name was John. [7] He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. [8] He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. [9] The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

[10] He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. [11] He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. [12] But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, [13] who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

[14] And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. [15] (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") [16] From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. [17] The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came

through Jesus Christ. [18] No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S TIME — Rev. Joshua Rinas

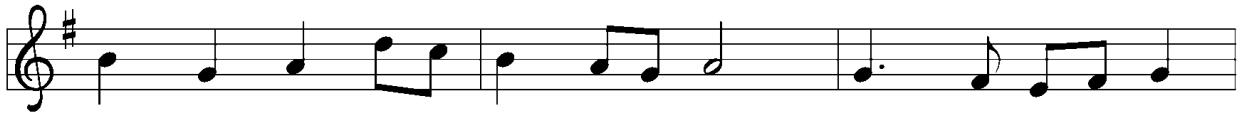
A special message for children.

SERMON — Rev. Joshua Rinas

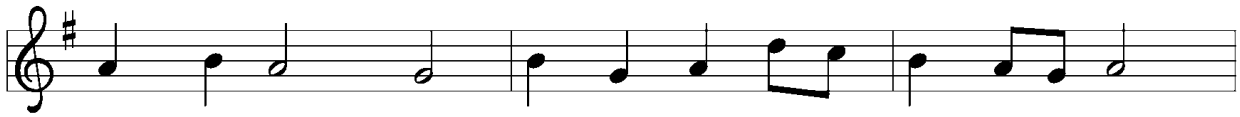
Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY — ELW 510

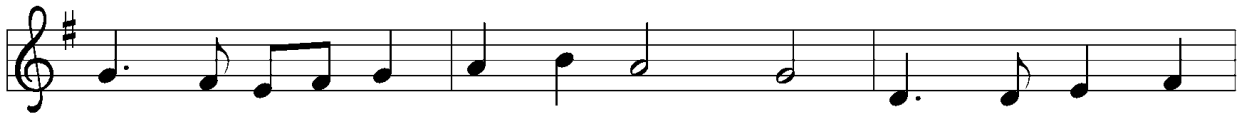
"Word of Gold, Come Down to Earth"



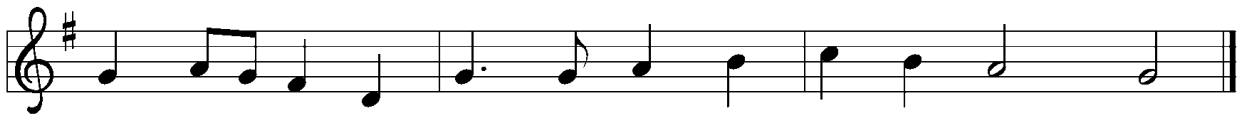
1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919
Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673
Text © James Quinn, SJ, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American Agent.

APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle's Creed.

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A: O God, you reveal yourself wherever two or three are gathered in your name. Be with us now, not only in the infant Jesus and resurrected Christ, but in the beloved people of this assembly. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You reveal yourself in the waters of the womb; in brooks, ponds, and oceans; and in the waters of baptism. Grant us wisdom to tenderly care for the earth as a garden watered by your grace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You reveal yourself in blessed diversity. Help us to look for you in people near and far, in bodies of all kinds, and in kindred young and old. Let us seek you in many places, praising you in many tongues. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: You reveal yourself in new life. Support those beginning a new job, a new relationship, or a new living situation, especially those displaced because of tragedy or loss. Be with all others who need your life-giving touch this day especially John, Bob, Diane, Gary, John, Cora, Ken, Lew, Richard, the family and friends of Patricia and of Bob. Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

A: You reveal yourself in holy communion. Sustain all who provide food and fellowship in this congregation and in the wider community. Make our tables signs of your welcoming presence among us. Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

A: For what else does this congregation pray? Prayers may be said aloud, typed into the live chat box, or silently in your hearts…

Brief Pause for the congregation to respond.

A: Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

A: You promise to turn mourning into joy and to comfort those who weep. We remember those who have died and look to being united with them in your glory. Hear us, O God.
C: Your mercy is great.

A: With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
C: Amen.

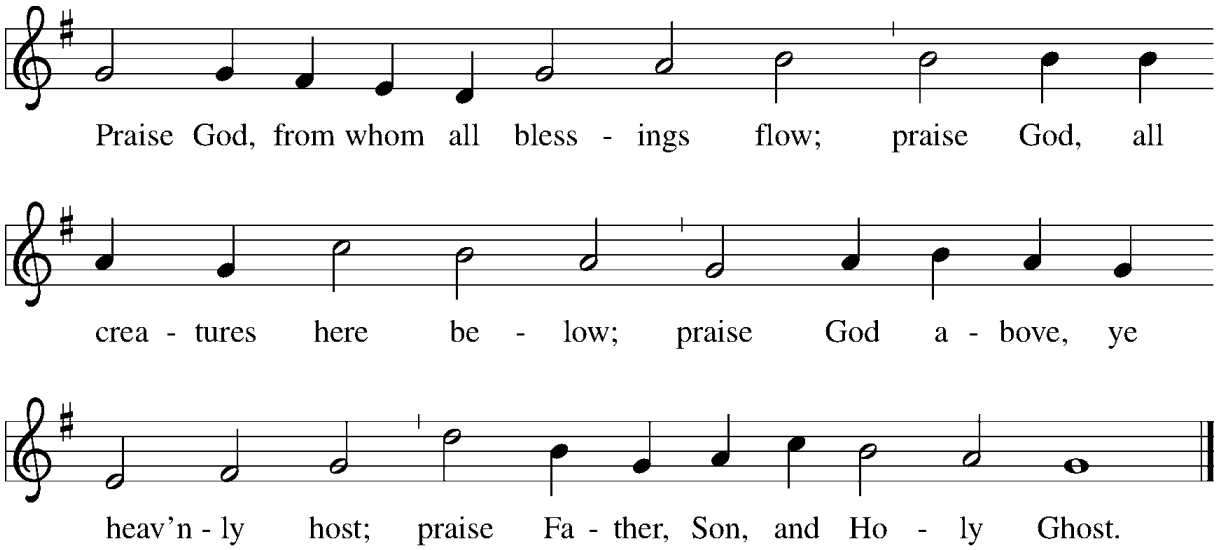
SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN – *"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"*



Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

C: God of glory,
great are your wonders among us
and many are the blessings you bestow.
Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,
that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,
through Christ our Savior.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C. And also with you.

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. We lift them to the Lord.

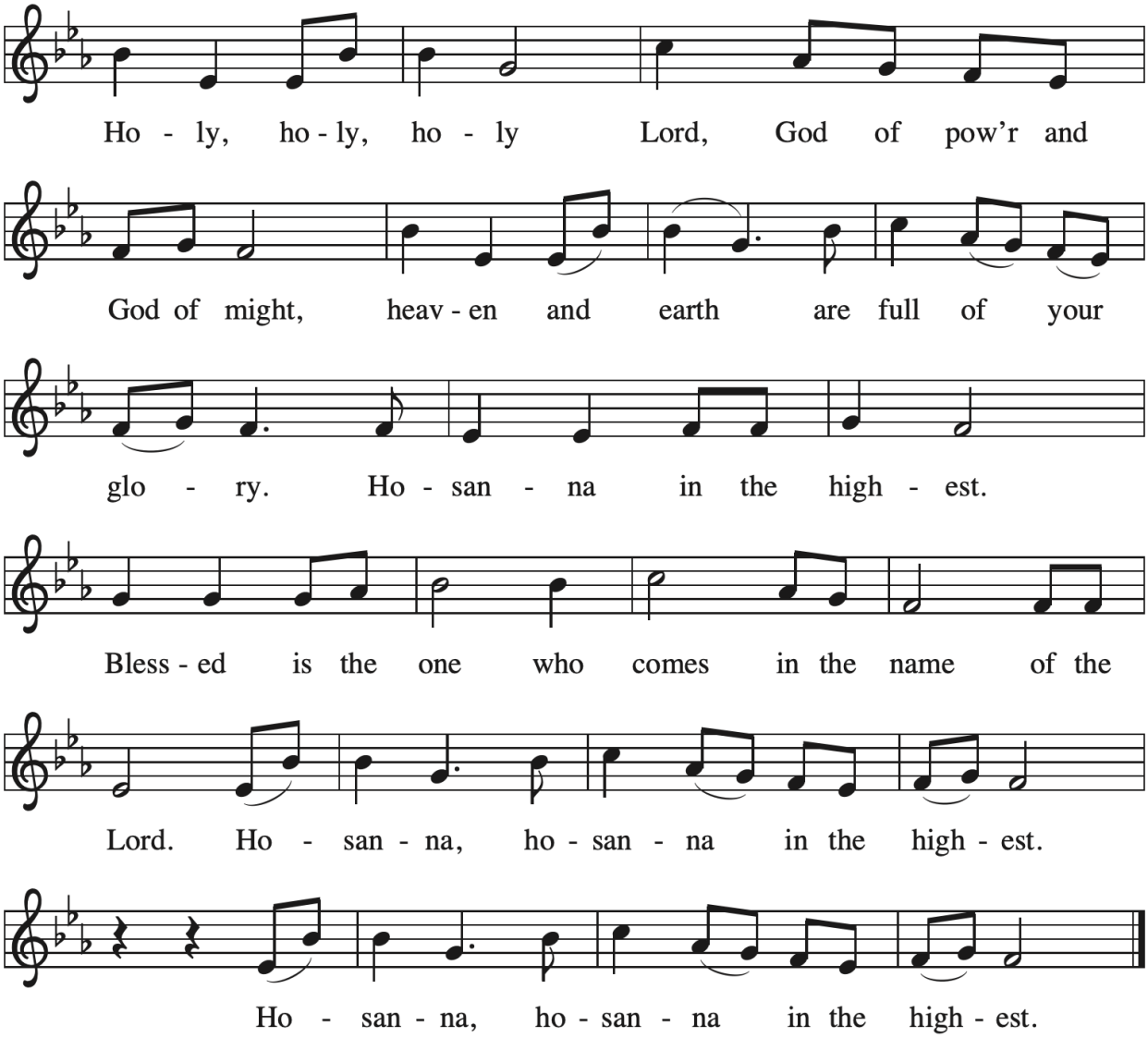
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P: Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega, we give thanks to you! You have called all creation into being, setting the earth on its foundations. You have spread out the heavens like a tent, and set a boundary to the seas, you have filled the world with your creatures and called all things good. The heavenly beings are your messengers night and day, and with them we sing and give glory to you:

SANCTUS



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved. Born of our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, guarded by our brother Joseph with fatherly care, Jesus came among us as a baby, humbly born, cradled beside the beasts and warmed by their breath, human as we are, in need of human love. Yet kings bowed down before him, bringing gifts and emperors were troubled by his reign – this Child in whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

This Word of God made flesh and full of grace was sent to deliver us from our sin, from the power of evil and the fear of death. As a servant, Jesus emptied himself of might upon the cross, and as the risen Anointed One is enthroned at God's right hand to bring mercy and justice to all the earth at the end of days. And so, rejoicing in all God has done for us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

P: Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in these creatures of bread and wine, making them for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth, as we remember how Jesus took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat, This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took a cup of wine and blessed and gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Blessed God, shed your grace brighter than starlight on us that we may bear your good tidings to all and renew the weary world in your name: the name of Emmanuel – God-With-Us, to whom we give honor and glory in joy, now and for ever. Amen.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

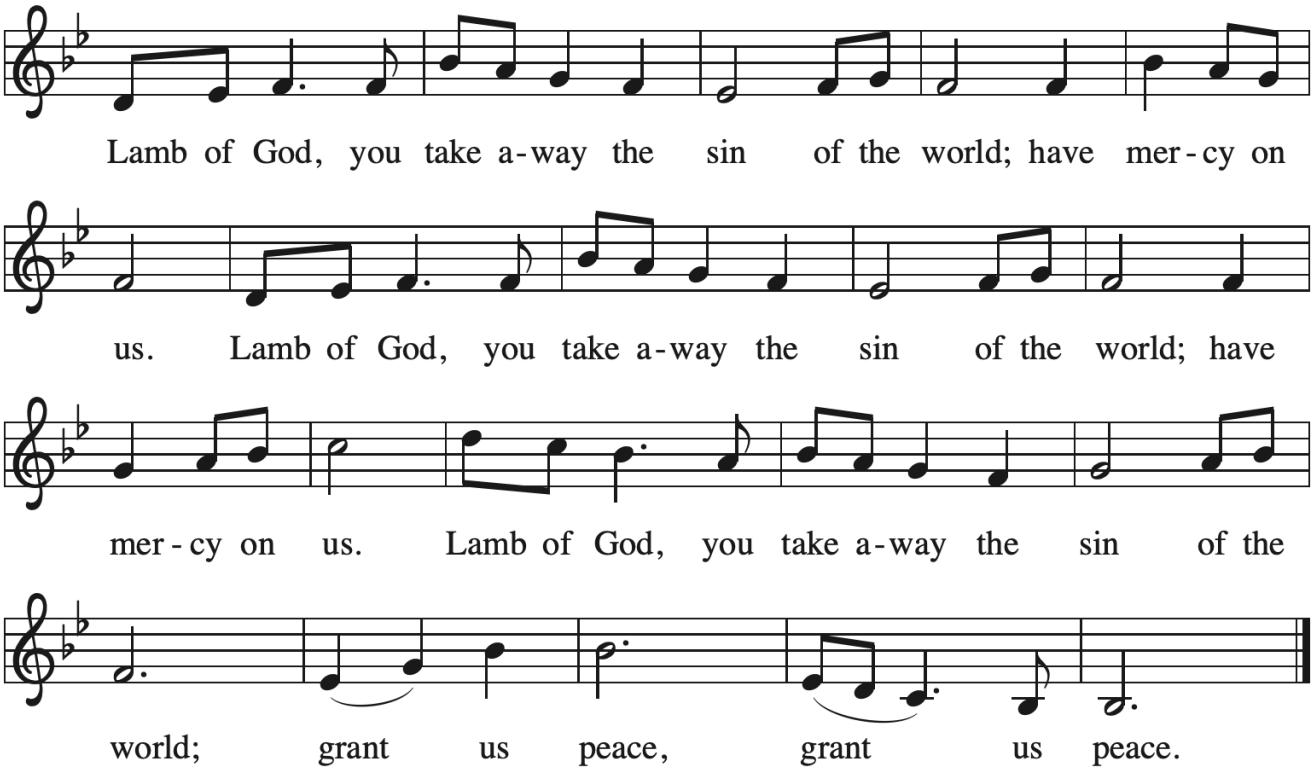
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

LAMB OF GOD CANTICLE



COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *"Mary's Boy Child"* By Jester Hairston

Led by the Emmanuel Chancel Choir (Please join in singing)

Long time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible say
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas day

REFRAIN: Hark, now hear the angels sing
A new King born today
And man will live forever more
Because of Christmas day
Trumpets sound and angels sing
Listen what they say
That man will live forever more
Because of Christmas day

(Verse 2) While shepherds watched their flock by night
Them see a bright new shining star
And hear a choir sing a song
The music seem to come from afar
Now Joseph and his wife Mary
Come to Bethlehem that night
And find no place to borne she child
Not a single room was in sight

(Verse 3) By and by they find a little nook
In a stable all forlorn
And in a manger cold and dark
Mary's little boy was born
Long time ago in Bethlehem
So the Holy Bible say
Mary's boy child, Jesus Christ
Was born on Christmas day

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The assisting minister leads one of the following or a similar prayer after communion.

A: Let us pray.

C: Incarnate God,
you are among us at this table.
May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts
the mystery of your presence.
Move us to discover the wonders
of your love in the everyday moments of our lives,
through Christ born in us.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

THE SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

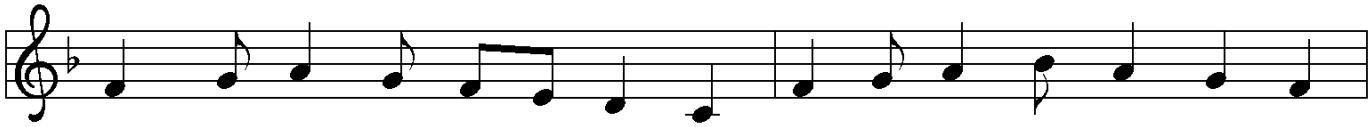
BLESSING

P: The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,
✠ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

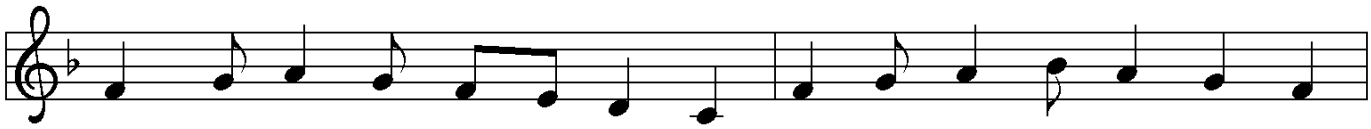
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN ELW 672

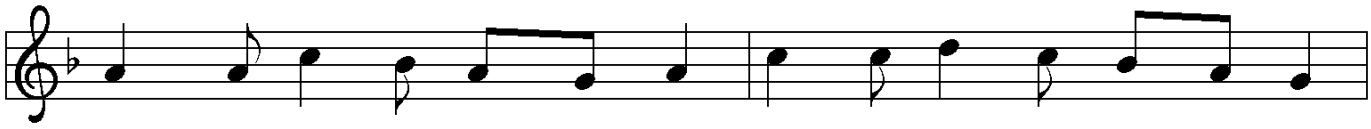
"Signs and Wonders"



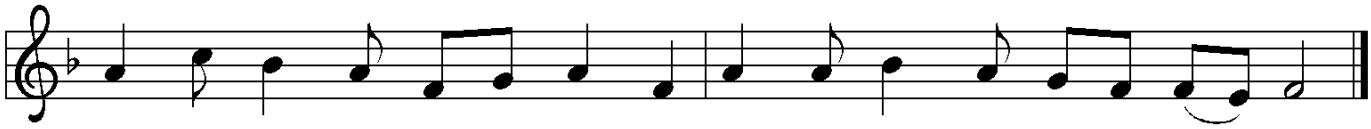
1 Signs and won - ders lead the danc - ing from the heart God frees from fear:
2 Hope and free - dom join the cir - cle: Mar - y to the gar - den came,
3 Cast a - side all fear and hid - ing; hand in hand we dance the round.



wings of an - gels greet the mai - den, and God finds a dwell - ing here;
saw the ra - diance of the mar - vel, heard the Ris - en call her name;
God is with us, Christ, a - bid - ing, and the Spir - it's gifts a - bound.



bold - ly may we lift our hands, bow the head, and voice A - men;
bold - ly may we heed Christ's call, step be - yond the gar - den wall:
Called by God to ho - li - ness, let us bold - ly serve and bless;



thus does glo - ry shine at mid - night: o - pen hearts in - vite the star - light.
beau - ti - ful the feet pro - ceed - ing with good news of death's de - feat - ing.
and to hearts that sigh and hun - ger may our lives dance signs and won - ders.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: FREU DICH SEHR, *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551
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DISMISSAL

A: Glory to God in the highest!
C: And peace to God's people on earth!
A: Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! If this is your first time with us, please add your name and information to our Guest book located in the Narthex (Lobby), we would love to connect with you.

*Hearing assistance devices and cushions are available in the back pew. Please help yourself!
*Children's bulletins available, please see an usher.
*Printed copies of the Newsletter are in the magazine holder in the Narthex.
**Christ in Our Home* devotionals (January - March) can be found in the Narthex.
*Hand Sanitizers can be found in the Narthex and hanging at the end of the pews.

Please remember to wear your Name Tag

It's a help for visitors and folks you may not have seen for a while. If you need a new Name tag, please let Jennifer know.

2026 Altar Flower Sign-up

The 2026 Altar flower sign-up has been put up on the bulletin board outside the office. Please sign-up for your date and turn in the form and monies in the offering plate or office mailbox. Thank you!

Social Concerns

The Clothes Closet reopens on January 7, 9a-10:30a. No volunteers are available until then, to process donations, so please refrain from leaving donations until January 7. Thank you.

Food Pantry is back to usual hours: Tuesday 1:30p Food Truck delivery unloading and produce sorting. Wednesday 2:30p setup and open for distribution 3-5p. If you would like to volunteer, please join the team in the basement at those times!

Ways to Give: Giving can be done online by clicking here. Or mail checks to: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 201 N. River St., Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

Paypal: Select payment type "Friends and Family" using emmanuelypsi@gmail.com. Please indicate account (general fund, flowers, memorials, etc.) where it says add message.

Mobile App: Download the Vanco Payments Mobile app for free from Google Play. In the app, select your fund and amount, enter a payment method and complete the donation.

THIS WEEK AT EMMANUEL

Sunday, January 4 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

- Handbell Choir 8:45am
- Chancel Choir 9:30am
- **Worship 10:00am**
- **Birthday Coffee Hour 11:00am – 12:00pm**
- Scouts 6:00pm

Tuesday, January 6

- Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 9:30am
- Food Gatherers delivery
- Transition Team Mtg. 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Wednesday, January 7

- Clothes Closet 9:00am – 10:30am
- Quilting 11:00am – 1:00pm
- Bible Study 12:30pm – 2:00pm
- Food Pantry 3:00pm – 5:00pm
- AA Meeting 8:00pm – 9:00pm

Thursday, January 8

- Reach for the Stars Exercise Class 9:30am
- Refresh Committee 10:30am – 12:00pm

Friday, January 9

- NA Meeting 6:00pm – 8:00pm

Saturday, January 10

- Washtenaw Refugee Welcome 10:00am – 12:00pm

Sunday, January 11 – Baptism of Our Lord

- Handbell Choir 8:45am
- **Worship 10:00am**
- Coffee Hour 11:00am – 12:00pm
- Scouts 6:00pm

The flowers on the altar today are given to the Glory of God.

For those with young children: Emmanuel's "Pray-Ground" is located at the front of the church. We welcome and encourage families with children to use this area; where your children can quietly play with soft toys, books, and do arts and crafts. Please don't worry about noise—worship leaders have microphones!

Prayers requested for: John, Bob, Diane, Gary, John, Cora, Ken, Lew, Richard, the family and friends of Patricia and of Bob.

Assisting Ministers Needed!
Sign up on the sheet outside the office or call the office; Or through sign-up genius. Click here or Scan QR code

Links:
Livestream Worship - https://www.youtube.com/@emmanuelypsi
Giving Online - Online donation
Clothes Closet - ClothesCloset@emmanuelypsi.org
Food Pantry - FoodPantry@emmanuelypsi.org

Serving in Worship:
Interim Pastor..... *Rev. Joshua Rinas*
Minister of Worship Music..... *David Meitzler*
Minister of Choral Conducting..... *Jamie Gallupe*
Assisting Minister..... *Suzy Conkin*

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You are welcome to connect to our wi-fi network – Emmanuel Guests

Contact us at info@emmanuelypsi.org
Or call us at 734-482-7121

Visit us at www.EmmanuelYpsi.org
Or @emmanuelypsi on Facebook